Storage capacity of the FCI

1869. SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the storage capacity of the FCI as on the 31st March, 2001; and

(b) the additional storage capacity the FCI proposes to build during the year 2001-2002?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) FCI had a total storage capacity of 314.4 lakh tonnes [Owned & Hired/Covered & CAP (Covered and Plinth)] as on 31.03.2001.

(b) FCI proposes to construct 1.76 lakh tonnes storage capacity during the year 2001-2002, out of which 1.00b lakh tonnes storage capacity has already been constructed upto October, 2001.

Withdrawal of FCI from foodgrains procurement

1870. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have announced that the task of procurement of foodgrains for PDS is delegated to private sector and completely withdrawing the FCI from this activity;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that recently paddy purchased at distress rates from the farmers of U.P. was transported to Punjab and sold on a discount to millers; and

(c) if so, whether this development togetherwith the complete withdrawal of Government from procurement would not only effect but completely destroy the PDS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir. No concrete proposal in this regard is under consideration.